

SENATE BILL NO. 515

INTRODUCED BY J. BALYEAT

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING INCOME TAX RATE REDUCTIONS IF INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX COLLECTIONS IN A FISCAL YEAR EXCEED THE AMOUNT ESTIMATED BY THE LEGISLATURE BY A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE; REQUIRING THE STATE TREASURER TO CERTIFY INCOME TAX COLLECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAX RATE REDUCTIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-30-101 AND 15-30-103, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 15-30-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-30-101. Definitions.** For the purpose of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Base year structure" means the following elements of the income tax structure:

(a) the tax brackets established in 15-30-103, but unadjusted by 15-30-103~~(2)~~(3), in effect on June 30 of the ~~taxable~~ tax year;

(b) the exemptions contained in 15-30-112, but unadjusted by 15-30-112(6), in effect on June 30 of the ~~taxable~~ tax year;

(c) the maximum standard deduction provided in 15-30-122, but unadjusted by 15-30-122(2), in effect on June 30 of the ~~taxable~~ tax year.

(2) "Consumer price index" means the consumer price index, United States city average, for all items, for all urban consumers (CPI-U), using the 1982-84 base of 100, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the U.S. department of labor.

(3) "Corporation" or "C. corporation" means a corporation, limited liability company, or other entity:

(a) that is treated as an association for federal income tax purposes;

(b) for which a valid election under section 1362 of the Internal Revenue Code, {26 U.S.C. 1362}, is not in effect; and

(c) that is not a disregarded entity.

(4) "Department" means the department of revenue.



1 (5) "Disregarded entity" means ~~a business entity~~:

2 (a) a business entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner for federal tax purposes,  
3 as provided in United States treasury regulations 301.7701-2 or 301.7701-3, 26 CFR 301.7701-2 or 26 CFR  
4 301.7701-3, or as those regulations may be labeled or amended; or

5 (b) ~~that is~~ a qualified subchapter S. subsidiary that is not treated as a separate corporation, as provided  
6 in section 1361(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, ~~{26 U.S.C. 1361(b)(3)}~~.

7 (6) "Dividend" means:

8 (a) any distribution made by a C. corporation out of its earnings and profits to its shareholders or  
9 members, whether in cash or in other property or in stock of the corporation, other than stock dividends; and

10 (b) any distribution made by an S. corporation treated as a dividend for federal income tax purposes.

11 (7) "Fiduciary" means a guardian, trustee, executor, administrator, receiver, conservator, or any person,  
12 whether individual or corporate, acting in any fiduciary capacity for any person, trust, or estate.

13 (8) "Foreign C. corporation" means a corporation that is not engaged in or doing business in Montana,  
14 as provided in 15-31-101.

15 (9) "Foreign government" means any jurisdiction other than the one embraced within the United States,  
16 its territories, and its possessions.

17 (10) "Gross income" means the taxpayer's gross income for federal income tax purposes as defined in  
18 section 61 of the Internal Revenue Code, ~~{26 U.S.C. 61} or as that section may be labeled or amended~~, excluding  
19 unemployment compensation included in federal gross income under the provisions of section 85 of the Internal  
20 Revenue Code, ~~{26 U.S.C. 85} as amended~~.

21 (11) "Inflation factor" means a number determined for each tax year by dividing the consumer price index  
22 for June of the tax year by the consumer price index for June 2005.

23 (12) "Information agents" includes all individuals and entities acting in whatever capacity, including  
24 lessees or mortgagors of real or personal property, fiduciaries, brokers, real estate brokers, employers, and all  
25 officers and employees of the state or of any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state, having the  
26 control, receipt, custody, disposal, or payment of interest, rent, salaries, wages, premiums, annuities,  
27 compensations, remunerations, emoluments, or other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gains, profits,  
28 and income with respect to which any person or fiduciary is taxable under this chapter.

29 (13) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or as it may be  
30 labeled or further amended. References to specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code mean those

1 provisions as they may be otherwise labeled or further amended.

2 (14) "Knowingly" ~~is as defined~~ has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

3 (15) "Limited liability company" ~~means a limited liability company, domestic limited liability company, or~~  
4 ~~a foreign limited liability company as defined~~ has the meaning provided in 35-8-102.

5 (16) "Limited liability partnership" means a limited liability partnership as defined in 35-10-102.

6 (17) "Lottery winnings" means income paid either in lump sum or in periodic payments to:

7 (a) a resident taxpayer on a lottery ticket; or

8 (b) a nonresident taxpayer on a lottery ticket purchased in Montana.

9 (18) (a) "Montana source income" means:

10 (i) wages, salary, tips, and other compensation for services performed in the state or while a resident  
11 of the state;

12 (ii) gain attributable to the sale or other transfer of tangible property located in the state, sold or otherwise  
13 transferred while a resident of the state, or used or held in connection with a trade, business, or occupation  
14 carried on in the state;

15 (iii) gain attributable to the sale or other transfer of intangible property received or accrued while a  
16 resident of the state;

17 (iv) interest received or accrued while a resident of the state or from an installment sale of real property  
18 or tangible commercial or business personal property located in the state;

19 (v) dividends received or accrued while a resident of the state;

20 (vi) net income or loss derived from a trade, business, profession, or occupation carried on in the state  
21 or while a resident of the state;

22 (vii) net income or loss derived from farming activities carried on in the state or while a resident of the  
23 state;

24 (viii) net rents from real property and tangible personal property located in the state or received or  
25 accrued while a resident of the state;

26 (ix) net royalties from real property and from tangible real property to the extent the property is used in  
27 the state or the net royalties are received or accrued while a resident of the state. The extent of use in the state  
28 is determined by multiplying the royalties by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days of physical  
29 location of the property in the state during the royalty period in the tax year and the denominator of which is the  
30 number of days of physical location of the property everywhere during all royalty periods in the tax year. If the

1 physical location is unknown or unascertainable by the taxpayer, the property is considered used in the state in  
2 which it was located at the time the person paying the royalty obtained possession.

3 (x) patent royalties to the extent the person paying them employs the patent in production, fabrication,  
4 manufacturing, or other processing in the state, a patented product is produced in the state, or the royalties are  
5 received or accrued while a resident of the state;

6 (xi) net copyright royalties to the extent printing or other publication originates in the state or the royalties  
7 are received or accrued while a resident of the state;

8 (xii) partnership income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit or item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit:

9 (A) derived from a trade, business, occupation, or profession carried on in the state;

10 (B) derived from the sale or other transfer or the rental, lease, or other commercial exploitation of  
11 property located in the state; or

12 (C) taken into account while a resident of the state;

13 (xiii) an S. corporation's separately and nonseparately stated income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit or  
14 item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit:

15 (A) derived from a trade, business, occupation, or profession carried on in the state;

16 (B) derived from the sale or other transfer or the rental, lease, or other commercial exploitation of  
17 property located in the state; or

18 (C) taken into account while a resident of the state;

19 (xiv) social security benefits received or accrued while a resident of the state;

20 (xv) taxable individual retirement account distributions, annuities, pensions, and other retirement benefits  
21 received while a resident of the state; and

22 (xvi) any other income attributable to the state, including but not limited to lottery winnings, state and  
23 federal tax refunds, nonemployee compensation, recapture of tax benefits, and capital loss addbacks.

24 (b) The term does not include:

25 (i) compensation for military service of members of the armed services of the United States who are not  
26 Montana residents and who are residing in Montana solely by reason of compliance with military orders and does  
27 not include income derived from their personal property located in the state except with respect to personal  
28 property used in or arising from a trade or business carried on in Montana; or

29 (ii) interest paid on loans held by out-of-state financial institutions recognized as such in the state of their  
30 domicile, secured by mortgages, trust indentures, or other security interests on real or personal property located

1 in the state, if the loan is originated by a lender doing business in Montana and assigned out-of-state and there  
2 is no activity conducted by the out-of-state lender in Montana except periodic inspection of the security.

3 (19) "Net income" means the adjusted gross income of a taxpayer less the deductions allowed by this  
4 chapter.

5 (20) "Nonresident" means a natural person who is not a resident.

6 (21) "Paid", for the purposes of the deductions and credits under this chapter, means paid or accrued  
7 or paid or incurred, and the terms "paid or accrued" and "paid or incurred" must be construed according to the  
8 method of accounting upon the basis of which the taxable income is computed under this chapter.

9 (22) "Partner" means a member of a partnership or a manager or member of any other entity, if treated  
10 as a partner for federal income tax purposes.

11 (23) "Partnership" means a general or limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability  
12 company, or other entity, if treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

13 (24) "Pass-through entity" means a partnership, an S. corporation, or a disregarded entity.

14 (25) "Pension and annuity income" means:

15 (a) systematic payments of a definitely determinable amount from a qualified pension plan, as that term  
16 is used in section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code, {26 U.S.C. 401}, or systematic payments received as the  
17 result of contributions made to a qualified pension plan that are paid to the recipient or recipient's beneficiary upon  
18 the cessation of employment;

19 (b) payments received as the result of past service and cessation of employment in the uniformed  
20 services of the United States;

21 (c) lump-sum distributions from pension or profit-sharing plans to the extent that the distributions are  
22 included in federal adjusted gross income;

23 (d) distributions from individual retirement, deferred compensation, and self-employed retirement plans  
24 recognized under sections 401 through 408 of the Internal Revenue Code, {26 U.S.C. 401 through 408}, to the  
25 extent that the distributions are not considered to be premature distributions for federal income tax purposes; or

26 (e) amounts received from fully matured, privately purchased annuity contracts after cessation of regular  
27 employment.

28 (26) "Purposely" ~~is as defined~~ has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

29 (27) "Received", for the purpose of computation of taxable income under this chapter, means received  
30 or accrued, and the term "received or accrued" must be construed according to the method of accounting upon

1 the basis of which the taxable income is computed under this chapter.

2 (28) "Resident" ~~applies only to~~ means a natural persons person and includes, for the purpose of  
3 determining liability to the tax imposed by this chapter with reference to the income of any ~~taxable tax~~ taxable tax year, any  
4 person domiciled in the state of Montana and any other person who maintains a permanent place of ~~abode~~  
5 residence within the state even though temporarily absent from the state and who has not established a residence  
6 elsewhere.

7 (29) "S. corporation" means an incorporated entity for which a valid election under section 1362 of the  
8 Internal Revenue Code, ~~{26 U.S.C. 1362}~~, is in effect.

9 (30) "Stock dividends" means new stock issued, for surplus or profits capitalized, to shareholders in  
10 proportion to their previous holdings.

11 (31) "Tax year" means the taxpayer's ~~taxable tax~~ taxable tax year for federal income tax purposes.

12 (32) "Taxable income" means the adjusted gross income of a taxpayer less the deductions and  
13 exemptions provided for in this chapter.

14 (33) (a) "Taxpayer" ~~includes any~~ means a person, entity, or fiduciary, resident or nonresident, subject to  
15 a tax or other obligation imposed by this chapter.

16 (b) ~~and unless otherwise specifically provided~~ The term does not include a C. corporation unless  
17 otherwise specifically provided by this chapter."

18

19 **Section 2.** Section 15-30-103, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"15-30-103. Rate of tax -- contingent tax rate reduction.** (1) There must be levied, collected, and paid  
21 for each tax year upon the taxable income of each taxpayer subject to this tax, after making allowance for  
22 exemptions and deductions as provided in this chapter, a tax on the brackets of taxable income as follows:

- 23 (a) on the first \$2,300 of taxable income or any part of that income, 1%;
- 24 (b) on the next \$1,800 of taxable income or any part of that income, 2%;
- 25 (c) on the next \$2,100 of taxable income or any part of that income, 3%;
- 26 (d) on the next \$2,200 of taxable income or any part of that income, 4%;
- 27 (e) on the next \$2,400 of taxable income or any part of that income, 5%;
- 28 (f) on the next \$3,100 of taxable income or any part of that income, 6%;
- 29 (g) on any taxable income in excess of \$13,900 or any part of that income, 6.9%.

30 (2) If, in any fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008, individual income tax collections, excluding

1 amended returns and audit collections attributable to a tax year that began before the tax year in which the fiscal  
 2 year began, are at least 3% more than estimated by the legislature, as provided in 5-5-227, exclusive of the  
 3 amount attributable to audit collections, then beginning January 1 of the calendar year immediately following the  
 4 end of that fiscal year, the tax rates in effect under subsection (1) during the prior tax year must be reduced by  
 5 the percentage amount that individual income tax collections for that fiscal year exceeded the amount estimated  
 6 by the legislature. The amount estimated by the legislature includes the adjustment made by the state treasurer  
 7 under [section 3].

8 ~~(2)~~(3) By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the bracket amount contained in  
 9 subsection (1) by the inflation factor for that tax year and round the cumulative brackets to the nearest \$100. The  
 10 resulting adjusted brackets are effective for that tax year and must be used as the basis for imposition of the tax  
 11 in subsection (1) ~~of this section~~ as modified under subsection (2)."

12  
 13 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. State treasurer to determine excess of individual income tax**  
 14 **collections over legislative estimate.** For the purposes of 15-30-103, beginning with the fiscal year that ends  
 15 June 30, 2008, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the state treasurer shall certify the amount by which individual  
 16 income tax collections, exclusive of audit collections and amended returns attributable to a tax year that began  
 17 before the tax year in which the fiscal year begins, exceeds the amount of individual income tax collections,  
 18 exclusive of the amount attributable to audit collections, estimated by the legislature as provided in 5-5-227 and  
 19 as adjusted by the state treasurer for individual income tax legislation in effect for that fiscal year. The certification  
 20 must include the percentage amount by which actual individual income tax collections for that fiscal year are less  
 21 than or greater than the amount estimated by the legislature. The state treasurer shall notify the secretary of state,  
 22 the department of revenue, the code commissioner, and the legislative fiscal division of this certification.

23  
 24 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction.** [Section 3] is intended to be codified as an  
 25 integral part of Title 17, chapter 1, part 1, and the provisions of Title 17, chapter 1, part 1, apply to [section 3].

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 27 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective January 1, 2008.

28 - END -